their ends for an inch, or more, and their other parts, that are expored white the wing is extended nearly the same color as the mantle, but a little lighter. - The outer five primaries are marked as shown in the photograph.

The parts that appear white, or the lightest, are white. Those that show the darkest, as along parts of the outer webs, and partly across the inner webs, toward their ends, are brownish slate-gray. The parts that appear less dark, are, generly, nearly like the mantle, but lighter, and with a tinge of buff on the outer webs. - The largest feather on the spurious wing is slate-color. There is a very little tinge of buff on some of the ends of the secondary coverts near the bend of the wing. I have mounted the bird, and have it in my collection. Very respectfully, Austin F. Park

Austin F. Park
Feb. 4, 1884

31 Museum Building,
Troy, N. Y., Feb. 4, 1884.

William Brewster, Esqr.,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:- In view of your article in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VIII, p. 214, - "On an apparently new Gull from Eastern North America," I herewith respectfully present a photograph of a gull brought to me, January 28, 1884, by Mr. Edward Root, of Green Island, N. Y. - He stated that he shot the bird, the day before, as it sat on the ice by open running water in the Mohawk river near its junction with the Hudson. The weather had been very cold, and the northern and western portions of the State all covered with snow, about a month. -

The bird was thin in flesh, weighed

only 21 ounces, and had in its stomach merely a few grains of gravel.

It was a female, and its ovaries showed that it had passed through one breeding season, at least.—

Its measurements were, length 23; extent, 51.75; wing, 15.75; tail, 7; wings beyond tail, 1.50; tarsus, 2.20; middle toe and claw, 2.25; culmen, (head from feathers) 1.60; bill from nostril, .80; bill from gape, 2.60; height at nostrils, .60; height at angle .63; diameter of hemisphere of eye, .36.—

The photograph was taken, hastily, from the bird in the flesh, to illustrate its wing-markings.

When the bird had been dead one day, the iris was grayish brown; bill light watery yellow, with a greenish shade near its base and a small, vermillion red spot in a little haze of dusky on the side at the angle; legs, toes and webs flesh-color, pearly beneath.—

Head and neck streaked with pale brownish dusky, and breast mottled in front and washed in rear with the same color — but all white just under the surface. Throat nearly pure white. Bristle-like feathers along the front of the eyes, dusky. Rump, abdomen, tail and its coverts, all snow white. Entire under surfaces of the wings clear satin-white. Secondary coverts and back, pale whitish blue, somewhat lighter along the edges of the shoulders and across neck. Primary coverts, of a lighter bluish shade than the mantle, with a tinge of buff. Inner primaries and all the secondaries and tertials, white at

To William Brewster Esqr. —

From Austin F. Park,

Feb. 4. 1884.

Troy, Vt. N. Y.

Austin F. Paulk

Feb. 20, 1884

31 Museum Building,
Troy, N. Y., Feb. 20. 1884.

William Brewster, Esq.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of 11th inst. was duly received; and the gull arrived in good condition.-

Inclosed herewith is a note for "The Auk", as you suggested. Please alter or curtail it as shall seem expedient. Probably you will make a note on the comparative size and plumage markings of this bird with the others noted in your article of October; ~~and~~, Please, therefore, strike out of my note whatever may in any way interfere with anything you shall wish to put in yours.-

I was tempted to let you have the gull; for you are probably more deeply interested in it, (another instance of) ~~as a~~ "an apparently new gull" than any other person. But, I am, and have been

for several years, striving to make and get together a scientific collection of mounted birds, (that may sometime be public) and which shall embrace all the species found, or known as being found, in this vicinity, and, at least one representative species of each family or genus of North America. — It therefore seems best, to me, to retain the bird. —

Recently I have obtained, from near here, a few birds that are rare, in this vicinity. Among them is an adult male Picoides arcticus, shot Oct. 6, 1883, in Poestenkill, within ten miles of this city.

Another is an adult female Crex pratensis, shot Nov. 5, 1883, within a mile of this city; as noted by me in Forest & Stream, of Feb. 14, 1884.

Thanking you for your kindness in this guilt matter; and, in general,



for your many pleasant and interesting published articles, and valuable technical contributions, on North American birds — and, especially for your latest notes, in "The Auk", on the birds of the Berkshire mountains, that adjoin the Canaan (N. Y.) mountains, the place of my nativity, — I remain

very sincerely & respectfully, Yours &c

Austin F. Park

P. S. Please excuse delay in sending the note, for I have been extremely busy at work. —

Yours truly,

A. F. Park

A. F. Park
Feb. 26, 1884

31 Museum Building,
Troy, N. Y. Feb. 26, 1884.

William Brewster, Esq.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

You have my thanks for referring to Turnbull for the Corn Crake record.-

His "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey" 1869- Stokes, as to Crex pratensis- Hat.-

"A specimen shot at Salem is "now in the collection of the Acad- "emy of Sciences. Another was "procured near Bordentown, "New Jersey by Mr. John "Kreider. It is known as a "summer visitant to Greenland."

Mr. Kreider's "Forty Years "notes of a Field Ornithologist."- 1879- p. 69. Stokes as to the Corn Crake- "I was fortunate

In November last I mailed a very short note to Prof. J. A. Allen, on the capture of my Crex pratensis; but have not been informed that he received it.-

I am very sorry to hear of his long continued ill health.

There is nothing similar to Larus Kumlieni in the New York State Collection.-

Your letter did not hint a intimate that my gull would be an acceptable present. I understood it as merely indicating that you would like to have the bird (by purchase or exchange, of course) whenever I shall wish to dispose of it.-

Very Sincerely Yours
Austin F. Park

2/
a

enough to obtain a specimen
of this bird while shooting
woodcock in June in the
meadows above Bordentown,
N. J. This specimen is now
in the Academy of Natural
Sciences of Philadelphia. I
also obtained another specimen
that in the meadows below
Salem, N. J. in the month
of August."

In Coues's Ornith. Bibliography
third instalment, p. 886 is —
"1849. Wedderburn, J. M. —
"Occurence of the Landrail
"(Crex pratensis) in Bermuda,
"< Zoologist, VII, 1849, p. 2591."

In the New York State
collection at Albany, is a Corn
Crake, labeled "New York Rail,"
but I probably cannot find out
when it was captured.

As the Corn Crake is a Game
bird I wrote the note for
Forest & Stream, with but
very little search as to its
record in this country; and
carelessly stated my little
knowledge of the matter, with
a view to draw out new
information as to the bird
in America. — I did not
even think to look in either
Turnbull's or Kreider's list. —
Besides, I did not have access
to the numerous publications
necessary to make a thorough
report on the record of the
bird in this
country. —

A few days ago a gentleman of
this city met me and at once said
that he saw my note in F. & S.
and that many years ago he shot
a bird that he gave to be stuffed to a doctor in
this vicinity, and that the doctor said
it was a Corn Crake or "Landrail."
I shall try to find out more about that
bird. Whatever it may prove to be.

-ous perhaps of leucolaema and arenicola, for instant comparison with whatever I shall get here, I shall be greatly pleased. =

I understand that my mounted specimens of praticola are typical of that race.

I am working to get the results of my investigations as to the weights of theirs their brains, eyes, and the three principal parts of the brains, into tabular form and ready for printing, as soon as possible, and expect to have it all, ready, or at least a large part of it, ready for the Auk of April next. I know I do not know but it may be full already. — I greatly enjoyed your call at my house, and your letter is

Yours truly, Austin F. Park

Lark mailed in separate package A.F.P.

A. F. Park
Nov. 17-1887

31 Boardman Building,
Troy, N. Y. Nov. 17. 1887.

Dear Mr. Brewster:-

I was glad to get your very kind letter of Nov. 2, 1887.

I have put off a reply, day after day, until I could take time from my hurrying office-work, and urgent bird-work, to look through my bird skins, and some other collections in Troy, for specimens of Horned Larks; to hunt for the birds alive in the fields; and to write out the results in my note of correction for the Auk.

I have not been to Albany to see what can be found there, and have not found much any where. —

Yesterday afternoon I searched the fields where Horned Larks

are often found, but saw none of the birds.— I however saw two Lapland Longspurs just at dusk, and got one of them, an adult ♀.

I think the note of correction should be published in the Auk as soon as possible, and I take the liberty to inclose the note for you to inspect, and correct if needful, and to add whatever remarks you may deem proper, and to forward the same to Prof. Allen for the January Auk.

I have seen many flocks of Horned Larks hereabout in the late fall, winter and spring, but am not sure as to the race or varieties.—

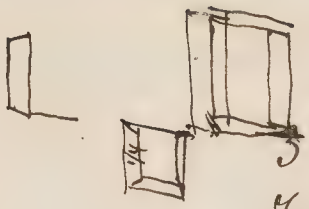
I suspect that most of the praticola race breed farther north, and that alpestris proper does not breed here, although the specimen which is mentioned at the bottom of my note, and which I send to you by mail to-day, was captured in this immediate vicinity, as late in April as the date of the capture of the young praticolas.

I intend to hereafter watch for the Horned Larks, and to get specimens as often as I can, and to preserve numbers of them, so as to get nearly all the plumages found here, both adult and of the year, and of the two or more varieties.—

If you can, without any inconvenience, loan and send to me specimens of the ♂ and ♀ of alpestris proper,

A. F. Park

Nov. 28-1887



31 Boardman Building
Troy, N. Y. Nov. 28. 1887.

Dear Mr. Brewster:-

Your very interesting letter of 18th inst. was duly received and the specimens of Homed Larks arrived last week. I am much obliged to you for both the letter + larks.-

I have had to work very intensely every day and evening of last week, at very urgent patent business; and have not yet compared your specimens with my proticelas, and have not obtained any specimens heredunts. for comparison, since you were in Troy. I hope to get a small series of true alpestris + proticola here this season, and to make careful

ramifications of them — internally, as well as externally.

As you have discovered that the praticals race visits your vicinity; I shall expect to soon learn of its breeding, longitudinally, from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains.—

I lately received a fine large adult male Wild Turkey, from the Cumberland, Maryland, and expect to mount it this week.—

If a man had as large a body in proportion to his brain as a Wild Turkey has in proportion to its brain, the man would weigh nearly a ton.

If a man had as small a body in proportion to his brain, as a Common Chickadee has in proportion to its brain, the man would weigh only about 50 pounds.

The females of most birds generally have larger brains in proportion to their bodies, than the males.—

Yours truly,
Austin F. Park

A. F. Park
April 18, 1889
Barn Swallow

31 Boardman Building,
Troy, N. Y., Ap. 18, 1889.

Dear Mr. Brewster:-

In answer to your letter of the 15th inst., I have this evening sent to you by Express a box containing the skins of four gulls (for you to examine at your leasure) and skins of a ♂ (800) and a ♀ (799) Oreoica a. praticola, both killed at one shot, and probably a mated pair.- (for your own use and behoof.)

They were taken by Mr. Edward Root, April 9. 1888, and were then in breeding condition.- The female was not through laying, and had two enlarged ova left, one 0.4" diameter, and the other 0.3".- The testes of the male were each about .38" × .28". The male weighed 513 grs. net, and was not as heavy as the ♀ which weighed 5-5-9 grs. net.- ♂♂ in breeding are of greater weight than at other times, as you know.-

I have noticed that, generally, the inside of the bill or mouth, of *L. a. praticola*, is of a leaden black color, and very much darker than in *L. alpestris*. This is most distinct in the adult males.— The outside of the bill is also, generally darker in *praticola*, than in *alpestris* so far as I have noticed.—

Of the gulls sent, all were ♂ except No. 858, which was taken at Lansingburgh N. Y. about 3 miles from the center of Troy Nov. 21, 1888. The ovary of No. 858, was very distinct, but flat, thin, and without any perceptible ova.— If it was not so light colored, (I would think from its ovary that it was hatched in 1888. I am inclined to believe that it was hatched in 1887.

I have two mounted gulls, of perhaps the same species.— One is No. 469, Taken near Troy, N. Y. January 27, 1884, & sent to you in 1884.— This was a female that, by its ovary, had bred. The other is No. 1173 an immature ♂ taken on coast of Maine about March 10, 1884, with white worn quills.— I will send you these two mounted birds if you wish to examine them.

Yours truly, Austin F. Rark

31 Boardman Building,
Troy, N. Y. April 22, 1887.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

The box of gulls arrived safely to-day; and I have your letter of 20th giving, in confidence, your present opinion as to the specific identity of the birds, &c. — for which I thank you.

I shall await with interest the procuring by you of undoubted young and immature specimens of L. leucopterus in fresh autumn and warm (summer) spring plumages, as well as the adults, all from the same locality, if possible.

I infer that the gulls hatched in 1887 will not breed until the summer of 1889.

Thanking you for the further information in your letter, and hoping that you will call on me freely for any items of information, or bird-specimens, that I can furnish, & you shall desire, I remain

Yours truly, Austin F. Park

A. T. Parks

Apr. 22. 1889

Austin H. Parks
Feby 23. 1891.

31 Boardman Building,
Troy, N. Y. Feb. 23d. 1891.

Dear Mr. Brewster:-

The advance complimentary copy of your "Descriptions of Seven Supposed New North American Birds", is thankfully received, and your kindly remembrance is appreciated.

You are indeed fortunate in securing large series of nearly allied birds, and describing their race characteristics, from various geographical localities at different latitudes and altitudes and having various thermal and hygrometric conditions, and different botanical, entomological, ichthyological, conchological, herpetological and mammalogical natural growths, &c, which variously affect, alter and control, the food, growth, habits and appearances of birds.

I do nothing in that direction; but I do continue to get numbers of local

birds (and preserve them) - and measure, dissect and weigh the birds, their eyes, brains, and the parts of the latter, and note the same, and thereby measurably ascertain and show or indicate the various kinds and degrees of thought and action normally required to be exerted by birds of different orders, families, and species in getting their living.

Of the locally rare birds recently captured hereabouts, I have 1 Loggerhead Shrike, 2 Barn Owls (noted in The Auk), 1 Golden Eagle, 1 Marbled Godwit; several Red Phalaropes, and 2 Leach's Petrels; and known of one American Eider and one Labrador(?) Gerfalcon - the latter of which was, this winter, destroyed by fire in this city; - but no "Labrador Duck"!

Yours very truly,

Austin F. Park